REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-43 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment amends Claims 1-43 without introducing any new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Rangan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,872, hereinafter "Rangan").

Initially, Applicants respectfully request that the references cited in the PTO-1449 forms of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on May 18, 2007, February 26, 2007, January 9, 2007, and December 21, 2004 be acknowledged as having been considered in the next Office Action. Although the pending Office Action indicates on p. 2, ll. 3-5 that the references were considered, the Office Action has not initialed the respective boxes in the respective PTO-1449 forms.

In response to the rejection of Claims 17-20 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101, independent Claim 17 is amended to be directed to "[a] computer readable medium having a program recorded thereon written in a computer readable format so as to execute processing to perform a method for providing related information on contents including reference data arranged in time series on a computer system." The preambles of dependent Claims 18-20 are amended to correspond to this change of Claim 17. The features find non-limiting support in Applicants' disclosure as originally filed, for example in the specification starting at p. 4, l. 9. It is believed that no new matter has been added.

Moreover, independent Claim 1 is amended to recite features directed to a related and reference information receiving means, receiving information from the one or more user

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devices, and a "information delivering means that transmits information for displaying on a

display regarding which related information is inputted at a specific user device from among

said one or more user devices, and that delivers at least one of the stored related information

or the stored reference information to the one or more user devices." These features find

non-limiting support in Applicants' disclosure as originally filed, for example in Figs. 1 and

5, steps S8 and S9, and in the specification at p. 22, ll. 11-20, p. 23, ll. 4-16, and p. 28, ll. 19-

25. No new matter has been added. Moreover, independent Claims 13, 17 and 21 have been

amended to recite analogous features in the respective claim language directed to the

different statutory classes.

In addition, to better comply with U.S. claim drafting practice and to correct minor

formal issues, Claims 1-43 are amended. Because the changes are formal, no new matter has

been added.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), in light of the

amendments to the independent claims, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of

this rejection and traverse the rejection, as discussed next.

Briefly summarizing, independent Claim 43 is directed to a content related

information provision apparatus that provides related information on contents including

reference data arranged in time series. The apparatus includes, *inter alia*: *a related*

information receiver that receives related information on contents from one or more user

devices; related information storage that stores the received related information; a reference

information receiver that receives reference information from the one or more user devices,

the reference information specifying contents to be referred to by the related information and

specifying a data reference position in the contents; reference information storage that stores

the received reference information; and a information transmitter that transmits information

for displaying on a display regarding which related information is inputted at a specific

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user device from among said one or more user devices, and that delivers at least one of the stored related information or the stored reference information to the one or more user devices.

As explained in Applicants' specification in a non-limiting example, the features of Applicants' Claim 1 allow users to input and send related information about contents to a server, for example his personal comments to a video, and subsequently the server can distribute the thus entered related information to other users. Therefore, the apparatus as recited in Claim 1 is supportive of information sharing among users.

Turning now to the applied references, <u>Rangan</u> is directed to a method of synchronous presentation of video and audio transmissions and their interactive enhancement for TV and internet environments, where special meta data can be inserted to a media stream. (<u>Rangan</u>, Abstract.) In particular, <u>Rangan</u> explains that a media stream can be enhanced by tracking objects in the video data stream, such as a so that advertisements can be linked to the tracked objects. (<u>Rangan</u>, col. 5, l. 64, to col. 6, l. 16.) <u>Rangan</u> uses a tracking module 13 that uses a powerful processor to generate tracking coordinates of objects by image processing algorithms. (<u>Rangan</u>, col. 6, l. 51, to col. 7. l. 32.)

However, <u>Rangan</u> fails to teach all the features of Applicants' Claim 1. In particular, the cited passages of <u>Rangan</u> fails to teach:

> *a related information receiver that receives related information on contents from one or more user devices*;
> and a information transmitter that transmits information *for displaying on a display regarding which related information is inputted at a specific user device from among said one or more user devices*, and that delivers at least one of the stored related information or the stored reference information to the one or more user devices.

(Claim 1, portions omitted, emphasis added.) In the cited passages of <u>Rangan</u>, no information on contents are received from the one or more user devices, and there is also no transmission of information for displaying on a display regarding which related information

is inputted at a specific user device from among said one or more user devices, as required by Applicants' Claim 1.

Therefore, the applied reference <u>Rangan</u> fail to teach every feature recited in Applicants' Claim 1, so that Claims 1-12 are believed to be patentably distinct over <u>Rangan</u>. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse, and request reconsideration of the rejection based on <u>Rangan</u>.[1]

Independent Claims 13, 17 and 21 recite features that are analogous to the features recited in independent Claim 1, albeit directed to different statutory classes. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 13, 17 and 21 and the rejections of all associated dependent claims, are also believed to be overcome in view of the arguments regarding independent Claim 1.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-43 is earnestly solicited.

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[1] See MPEP 2131: "A claim is anticipated <u>only if each and every</u> element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference," (Citations omitted) (emphasis added). See also MPEP 2143.03: "All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art."

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this

application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact

Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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